



**Transportation  
Security  
Administration**

# Fact Sheet

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The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) strives to provide the highest level of security while ensuring that all passengers are treated with dignity and respect. TSA has programs in place for the screening of people with all types of disabilities and medical conditions and their associated equipment. TSA established a coalition of disability-related groups and organizations to help the agency understand the concerns of persons with disabilities and medical conditions and these groups have assisted TSA with integrating the needs of persons with disabilities into airport operations.

Every person and item must be screened before entering each secure boarding area and the manner in which the screening is conducted will depend on the passenger's disability and any equipment he or she may need to bring through the security checkpoint.

- Passengers with disabilities and medical conditions who need assistance can be accompanied by a companion throughout the screening process, though his or her companion also will be screened.
- Travelers can ask a security officer if they need assistance during the screening process and can ask to sit if they have difficulty standing.
- Passengers are not required to disclose a disability or medical condition, but communication with TSA personnel will facilitate the screening process. Documentation related to a passenger's disability or medical condition is not required, but can assist to discreetly communicate a passenger's needs. A notification card is available on TSA's website for travelers who wish to communicate their medical condition in a discreet manner [here](#).
- If a passenger cannot or chooses not to be screened by Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT) or a metal detector due to a disability or medical condition, he or she will be screened using a thorough pat-down procedure. All metal detector alarms or anomalies detected by AIT also are resolved using a pat-down procedure, including alarms that are caused by metal joint implants.
- All passengers may request private screening at any time, and a companion, assistant or family member may accompany and assist a passenger during a private screening.
- Travelers who are required to undergo additional screening should notify a security officer of any conditions that may cause pain or any special situation that requires sensitivity to ensure a comfortable screening experience and screening will be applied as gently as possible. All passengers must be screened to enter a secure area in an airport.

- Officers may ask to see some medical devices, but passengers can be screened without removing clothing or lifting clothing to expose devices in sensitive areas. A privacy drape is always available for additional privacy during screening. Passengers with ostomies or insulin pumps will be asked to pat-down the devices themselves, followed by explosive trace sampling of their hands. An ostomy does not need to be exposed or emptied and an insulin pump does not need to be disconnected in order to complete screening.
- Medically necessary liquids or other medication are not subject to the 3-1-1 policy and are permitted through the checkpoint after they have been screened, which generally is done by X-ray or other liquid screening technologies. Passengers should separate medically necessary liquids and other medications from their other belongings and declare them to TSA personnel before screening begins.
- Passengers with pacemakers, defibrillators and other similar implanted medical devices should not be screened using a walk-through metal detector and should consult their doctors if they are concerned about being screened by advanced imaging technology. Imaging technology screening is safe for all travelers. Individuals who choose not to be screened by imaging technology should inform TSA personnel that they have an implanted medical device and request a pat-down.
- The manner in which passengers who are in wheelchairs, scooters, or use other mobility devices, such as walkers, are screened depends on their ability to stand and walk independently. Passengers can be screened while seated and should inform TSA personnel of their ability before screening begins. All mobility aids, to include wheelchairs, canes, crutches, or braces, will be screened at the security checkpoint. This may include screening the items for traces of explosives or X-ray inspection.
- Officers will need to see a prosthetic device, cast or support brace as part of the screening process without exposing sensitive areas. This screening process will vary depending on the device; however, this does not apply to prosthetics that are the result of a mastectomy.

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